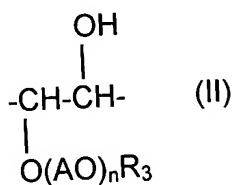


--22. A method of producing the nonionic compound of claim 1 which comprises
 a) reacting an epoxidised nitrile containing 1-3 epoxy groups and a total of 8 to 24 carbon atoms with an alkyl blocked polyalkylene glycol having the formula $R_3O(AO)_nH$, where R_3 is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30, in the presence of a catalyst, and optionally subjecting the product obtained to alkaline hydrogen peroxide.

--23. A method of producing the nonionic compound of claim 1 which comprises reacting ammonia or a primary or secondary amine with an acid or an ester containing 1-3 structure elements according to formula II



where R_3 is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.--

--24. A surfactant composition which comprises an effective amount of at least one non-ionic compound of claim 1. --

--25. The surfactant composition of claim 23 adapted for the cleaning of hard surfaces, vehicle cleaning, bottle cleaning, machine dishwashing or machine washing of textiles.

Remarks

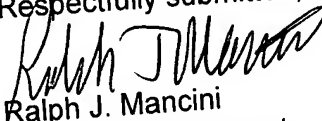
This is an international application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) on June 19, 2000. The examiner is respectfully requested to note that prior to the present amendment, claims 1-10 were pending in the present application. In the present amendment, claims 2-10 are cancelled and new claims 11-25 are added to the application. New claims 11-25 correspond substantially with the subject matter of

cancelled claims 2-10. No new issues are raised by the amendments and it is believed that the amendments have placed the pending claims in ideal condition for U.S. prosecution.

The Examiner is reminded that the present application was filed under the PCT and that Unity of Invention rules apply.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Since the present amendment raises no new issues and presents no new matter, entry thereof in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 prior to the initial examination of the present case on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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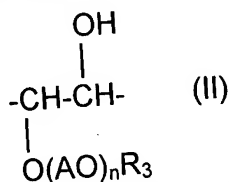
Version with markings to show changes made

The following sentence was added on page 1 of the specification after the title:

--The present application was filed on June 19, 2000 as international application serial number PCT/SE00/01285 and claims priority of Swedish patent application No. 99002450-7 filed on June 29, 1999.--

Claim 1 was amended as follows:

1. Nonionic compounds ~~of~~ characterised by the general formula RY (I), where R is a substituted aliphatic group containing 1-3 structure elements with of the formula

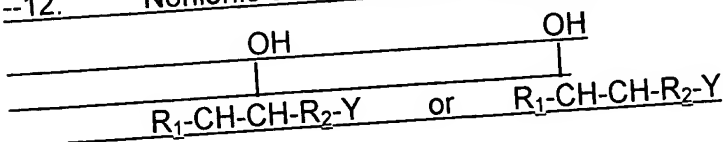


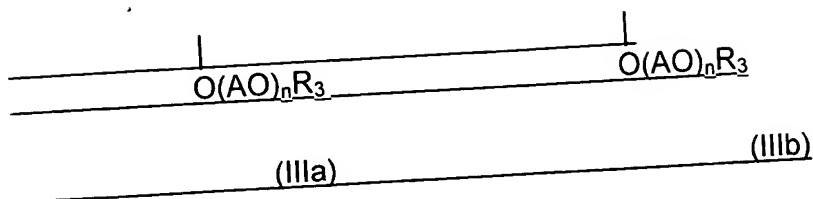
where the carbon atoms shown in the structure element are part of the aliphatic carbon skeleton of group R, which contains 8-24 carbon atoms, and Y is a nitrile or an amide group; R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.

The following new claims are added to the application:

--11. Nonionic compounds of claim 1 containing 1-2 structure elements according to formula (II). --

--12. Nonionic compounds of the general formulae





where R_1 is an aliphatic group, R_2 is an aliphatic radical, the sum of carbon atoms contained in R_1 and R_2 is between 9 and 19; Y is a nitrile or an amide group; R_3 is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.--

--13. Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.--

--14. Nonionic compounds according to claim 2 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.--

--15. Nonionic compounds according to claim 3 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.--

--16. Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--

--17. Nonionic compounds according to claim 2 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--

--18. Nonionic compounds according to claim 3 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--

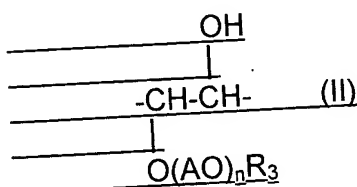
--19. Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where n is 3-20 and R_3 is methyl or ethyl.--

--20. Nonionic compounds according to claim 2 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--

--21. Nonionic compounds according to claim 3 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.--

--22. A method of producing the nonionic compound of claim 1 which comprises
a) reacting an epoxidised nitrile containing 1-3 epoxy groups and a total of 8 to 24 carbon atoms with an alkyl blocked polyalkylene glycol having the formula $R_3O(AO)_nH$, where R_3 is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30, in the presence of a catalyst, and optionally subjecting the product obtained to alkaline hydrogen peroxide.

--23. A method of producing the nonionic compound of claim 1 which comprises reacting ammonia or a primary or secondary amine with an acid or an ester containing 1-3 structure elements according to formula II



where R_3 is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.--

--24. A surfactant composition which comprises an effective amount of at least one non-ionic compound of claim 1. --

--25. The surfactant composition of claim 23 adapted for the cleaning of hard surfaces,
vehicle cleaning, bottle cleaning, machine dishwashing or machine washing of textiles.--

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